

## CHRIST AS OUR EXAMPLE IN PRAYER.

By Miss Minnie Ola King.

Did Christ pray? A very strange question to ask, isn't it? Yet, if Christ is to be our example in prayer, this is the first question that arises, and it may be answered by a few references.

We find by reading the sixth chapter of Luke that Christ, after being sorely abused and murmured at because of certain things he had done on the Sabbath, went out alone and continued to pray all night.

If one who had such wonderful power and so holy as he, had trials, such as would cause him to pray so long, need we murmur if sometimes the way grows a little darker or seems a bit harder than some one else's? The remedy is prayer; and pray all night, if need be, pray until peace comes to the troubled soul, and the way shines brighter than before.

Notice again after having finished the Lord's Supper, there in the silence of the night, with his disciples gathered closely around him to hear the last sweet words that he should utter to them, though they knew it nor understood it not, and after a long discourse with them he uttered the sweetest prayer ever heard by human ears. And in this blessed prayer, found in the 17th chapter of the Gospel by John, he says: "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word." Isn't it a pleasing, peaceful thought that we as Christ's followers have his prayers? Just think of one so holy and righteous as he, praying for us! Ah, how we should plead and entreat for ourselves.

After this wonderful prayer is finished, watch this little band as they leave the upper room and cross over the little brook,\*Cedron, into the Garden of Gethsemane, where, as John tells us, he often went with his disciples. Here, no doubt, he had often prayed with and for his disciples, also instructing them in the way of the Lord.

But this night he prays not with them now, but behold his sad and troubled countenance, as he tells his disciples that his heart is very heavy, and asks them to watch as he goes a little apart from them and prays that his cup might pass away, if it were his Father's will.

Surely the angels in heaven have not witnessed such another scene. Can we picture in our minds anything so heart-rending? Behold him as he falls prostrate on the earth and prays, while sweat, as great drops of blood, bursts forth upon his forehead!

Now, we see that Christ, by example, not only teaches us that we must pray, but he teaches us when to pray.

Christ did not put off till the last his Father's business. When he was only twelve, he said, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"

Later, he said to his disciples, "Watch and pray lest ye enter into temptation." When do our temptations come to us? Is it while we sleep at night? or is it as

we go about our daily duties? We all know that it is during our daily tasks. Then why is it that so many of us leave off the reading of our Bibles and our prayers until the last ray of daylight is gone and our daily toils are over? Yes, God's Word says, "Pray without ceasing," and I do not intend to say that true Christians do not send up petitions to God during the day; but if we, immediately after arising in the morning, would read God's Word while our minds and hearts are fresh and free, and then fall upon our knees and ask God to guide us through the day, and help us to overcome all temptations that might come to us, we would be better and truer Christians and would even feel the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Christ also teaches us how to pray.

We find that when Christ did a thing he did it whole-heartedly and with great earnestness and sincerity. Have you ever knelt beside your bed to say your prayer at night and have gone to sleep while kneeling there? Have you sometimes thought it was just as well to wait until you had lain your head upon your pillow and then uttered your petition to God?

Or sometimes when you were asked to pray for some one, did you really pray or did you merely utter words? Ah! if you have done these things, listen to the Word of God, "Cursed be he that doeth the work of the Lord negligently." Jer. 48:10.

Christ never did his praying in a negligent manner. When we, as Christians, take Christ as our example in prayer, as well as a Saviour and pray, really pray, and pray without ceasing; pray earnestly, putting our very souls into it, and live in a manner to bring our prayers to pass; pray with faith, believing that we shall receive an answer to our prayer that will be for our good and the forward movement of God's kingdom, then we shall see many sinners turning from everlasting destruction unto the way of eternal life and joy. Then we shall hear, ringing in our very souls and lives, these blessed words of God, "Let him know that he which converteth a sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." And, oh, how sweet and what a glorious thought to know that we have been instrumental in bringing a soul to God!

Now, for the sake of God's Kingdom, for the sake of dying humanity, for the sake of the unsaved souls among us; yes, even more for the sake of our own fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, children, and friends in our own community, town or city, let us, as Christians, take Christ as our example in prayer.

Bethel Church, Ala.

Satan does not care how much religion a man gets if he can only make him believe that he has enough to get along with.

Call nothing insignificant when answering the call of duty.

## TO THE GRAHAM CLAN IN AMERICA:

The writer is compiling a volume on the Grahams, and hopes to have it in the hands of the printer by the coming winter. The book will be of unusual interest to the Grahams, and of especial importance to the rising generation.

Beginning with William de Graham, who lived in the reign of King David I., of Scotland (1124-1153), this book will trace several lines of Graham descent from this man down to the present—the earls, marquises, viscounts, dukes, barons, baronets and some other families of royal descent. The great Marquis of Montrose, Claverhouse, Sir James Graham, M. P., and Gov. W. A. Graham will have a chapter each.

The book will be in three divisions. The first division will be the introductory, containing a chapter on the Graham Dyke episode, and another on the origin and meaning of the word Graham. The second division will be genealogical, tracing family genealogies as far as the author can obtain reliable information. As it is quite difficult to separate biography and history, the third division will be biographical and historical.

So intricately interwoven with the history of the Grahams is that of Scotland itself, of the Graham clan, of the Scotch-Irish, of the Covenant, and of Presbyterianism, the book will contain something on each of these subjects. It will be Graham to the core, giving the Graham side on many mooted questions.

The book does not claim to be a complete history of the Graham family, but will give biographical sketches of the more prominent Grahams—a family rich in historic characters. The Grahams in congress, in parliament, in the army and navy, in science, in medicine, in law, in the ministry, in education, in literature—authors and editors—all receive attention. The Grahams have left their footprints in the sands of time, so counties, towns, lakes, mountains, islands, post-offices and even streets bearing that name receive attention.

This book will contain about 550 pages, and will be important and valuable to all Graham families. It should be in the homes of all Grahams; in the homes of all who love to read of old Scotland and her people. It will be a valuable reference work for all public libraries.

The author urges that everything of general or personal interest pertaining to the Grahams, dead or living, be sent to him at once for publication. His book will be different from most works of this nature, in that it will not be overburdened with genealogies, but will be largely biographical and historical.

The price will probably be five dollars for the best binding and three dollars for the cheaper. All who wish a copy will please notify me as to which kind they want, as I wish to know how many copies of each will be wanted. Subscriptions may be sent to me at any time. Money orders preferred. Please circulate these circulars.

Robert Love Graham.  
Montgomery Ala.